Channelising black-money for the Development of Backward areas

2802. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has put forth a scheme for channelising black-money for development of backward and hilly areas, as part of the strategy to augment resources for the Ninth Five Year Plan, overcoming regional imbalances in the process;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the strategy for simphonning off black money to backward areas; and

(c) the other resources for funding the Ninth Five Yar Plan which are being tapped both by the Centre and State Governments, so as to ensure effective decentralisation of the planning process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) No. Sir. However, keeping in view the large and growing black or parallel economy in India which has been a drag on the development process and on the ability of the Government to meet the pressing needs of the poor and vulnerable sections of the people, it has been decided to tap these forms of income and wealth to the greatest extent possible in order to provide the necessary resources for growth and development.

(c) In order to meet the fund requirements of Ninth Plan, various efforts like introduction of expenditure based presumptive income tax, broadening of tax base and maximisation of realisation of non-tax revenues viz. augmentation of irrigation charges, royalties on minerals and revision of user charges, reduction of fiscal deficit by way of sale of seized contraband gold and some of Government lands and through disinvestment of PSU shares. In addition efforts are being made to reduce the quantum of subsidies and to increase the efficiency of public sector undertakings through professionalising the management of these companies, greater involvement of workers in their management and removal of Government inteference in the operation of these enterprises.

In addition State Finance Commissions have been set up to make recommendations for transfer of resources from the respective State to Panchayati Raj Institutions so as to facilitate effective decentralisation of the Planning process during the Ninth Plan.

Abolition of the Department of Jammu & Kashmir

2803. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after establishing a popular Government in Jammu & Kashmir, the Central Government Department of Jammu & Kashmir Affairs has become irrelevant;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to abolish the said Department; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) According to information available with the Planning Commission there is no proposals to wind up Department of J&K Affairs in Government of India as close attention to the situation and development in J&K continues to be necessary.